

News from Mark and Sue

Issue 11.2 Autumn/Winter 2005/06



Serving with "YOUTH WITH A MISSION CYMRU/WALES" in Wrexham, North Wales YWAM

Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
Gen 32:26



11 Years and Counting

It is still hard for us to believe that we have been working as full-time missionaries for 11 years in January 2006. In fact, this Christmas marks the longest that we have ever lived under the same roof—3 and half years! We have worked it out that since we got married in 1991, we have moved in excess of 20 times!

Anyway, grab a seat and have a quick look-see at what is happening with the Venings, up here in Wales.



Dinosaurs do exist—in Pembroke!

Reflections

It is always interesting sitting down to write these bi-annual newsletters as it disciplines us to reflect on what we have been up to over the 6 months since the last one.

It has been an interesting year and since the summer we have felt an increasing sense of God's brooding presence, particularly with respect to His desire to

The Homeless—Easy to Forget

At this time of year it is easy to forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves. People find themselves homeless for many reasons and we are trying to help those in our community find a way out. As such, every Saturday and Sunday we take to the streets with a few sandwiches, fruit and hot drinks, ready for a chat and a coffee. We are getting known now by the homeless community (estimated at over 2 dozen in Wrexham) and it is our hope that we can encourage these folk back into what they describe as 'normal' lives.

Do you for us...



see His church rise, fully equipped for her purpose—to witness the Lord Jesus.

You will recall from the last newsletter that God spoke during the Spring/Summer to believe Him for the provision of a new property for our work with YWAM here in Wrexham.

We are still in faith for that provision, but God has led us on a journey of revelation since that time—which we would like to share with you.

Faith Journeys

Acting in faith is a good thing to do—consider the following verse:

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God

Perhaps it could be said that unless you live in faith you cannot be pleasing to God? That is certainly our interpretation and so we try and ensure that our lives represent an active **choice** to be faith-filled in all that we do.

Secondly, faith is often a journey—it is rare to discern something that you are required to appropriate in faith and then find it just plops into your lap 5 minutes later. More likely that is the wonderful **blessing** of God (much more common than we might think) rather than a **faith** target.

Taking this journey of faith often requires some sacrifice or testing. Consider Abraham's testing in Genesis 22 when he was asked to sacrifice his only son. Only then could God know that Abraham was a

Constanta, Romania

During the summer, we all travelled to Romania leading a team of teenagers on a summer mission.



Yup—we lived in a Wendy House!

Altar-Native is a chance for 14-18 year olds to experience a foreign culture, whilst going all out for God. This

summer the team travelled to **Constanta**, a port city on the Black



Sea, where they helped set up a conference for young Romanians. It was an amazing time for them, as much as for us—and one that we may consider doing again. Do you know anyone who might be interested? Contact us!

man of faith. There are many other scriptural examples of this.

We sense echoes of this in our own faith journey. Standing back for a moment, the provision of a base is not a huge thing for a marvellous God like ours to do—so why the delay?

As we have prayed and lifted up our faithful requests to God we have felt challenged by God in two key ways:

- How are we doing in the small, sometimes hidden issues of our lives
- In what ways do our prayers for this issue reflect in wider ways around the nation

These are a challenging couple of points.

(Continued overleaf)



Praying as a family over Constanta

(Continued from overleaf)

God is always interested in us as people first, and then again as people second.

Anything we can do on top is a bonus!

More of Him

As we have considered these questions, the desire in us has been like that of Paul in Galatians:

Gal 2:20 ...it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

This is easy to say, but rather harder to live. Ensuring that we are acting in integrity in all that we do—not one rule for public and one for home, or that we are being faithful in the little things, not just those that we might consider 'big'. It is the 'little foxes' that ruin the vine says Song of Songs, 2:15.

Can you really reach a Nation?

Seeing how our own faith journey can affect the wider work of God in the nation is also very illuminating.

God's desire is to see all come into relationship with him (2Pe 3:9) and we guess this means that He has a desire for nations to be reconciled to Him. Indeed, the picture we get in Revelation 5 is of 'every tribe, tongue

and nation' before God.

Therefore, we believe that our faithfulness is useful to God in the wider picture—much like a brick contributes the strength of a wall.

So, dear friends, whilst we do not yet see a breakthrough in the tangible, we are sensing much breakthrough in the intangible—or spiritual realm.

Keep Praying—it really helps

We want to thank you all again for your support and prayer for us in recent months—it is very much appreciated.

We especially want to thank our sending church in Frimley, where we spent a few days recently. It was a joy to spend some quality time with our pastor and his family as well as with treasured friends. Thank you so much.



That's a 1 million lei note!

Congratulations too, to the many who have recently had children—a very fertile time it seems apparently!

Much Love and May God Bless You All!

Hope you enjoyed our update from Wales. Have a wonderful Christmas and may you know God's fullest blessing in the New Year.

Love from Mark, Sue, Zaak & Tasha xxxxx

Puppets Ahoy!

Mark was recently part of a Welsh speaking Puppet show that travelled around some of the Welsh primary schools in North Wales.



This was definitely a challenge to his language skills, but nevertheless was an encouragement that Welsh is becoming established.

The puppet show, entitled "Radio Bethlehem", travelled to Zaak & Tasha's school too, where Mark enjoyed the part of a shepherd.

Bryn o'r bryniau is a 'man of the fields' and gives a very earthy rendition of the Christmas story!



Want to know what to Pray? Thank you for praying for us - it means a great deal

- As you will have gathered from the main text, we are definitely having to 'push in' to God over our faith journey for our work here in Wales. Please continue to pray for us—we are grateful for every one, much as Moses was for the support in holding up his arms when he battled the Amalekites in Ex 17:11-13
- Sue was expecting to travel to India recently to visit a work helping young women out of prostitution. Due to a terrible cyclone (which wiped out the railway system of a whole region and killed one of the pastors of the church) her trip was postponed. We have yet to see if the insurance will cover the flight cost. Do pray for her and that the rearranged date of January will come to pass. This is such an important work.
- We are in faith not just for YWAM and the nation 🇬🇧 but also for ourselves. We would love to think about upgrading our car and with growing children the expenses soon mount up! If you are able to keep us before the Lord in this area we would so appreciate it.



Want to get in touch with us? >>>>>>>>



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A Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all our friends and family!

